

Appln No. 10/750,497
Amdt date October 1, 2007
Reply to Office action of May 29, 2007

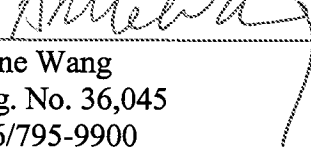
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated May 29, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11-14 and 17-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by Pomeranz, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,800,482) and rejected claims 2, 7, 8, 10, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Pomeranz. In rejecting the claims, the Examiner asserts that Pomeranz discloses a probe with irrigation openings and coiled ribbon electrodes. Office action, page 2. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections over Pomeranz.

Pomeranz fails to disclose a *generally rigid* probe body, as recited in independent claims 1, 5, 17 and 22. Rather, Pomeranz discloses a catheter that is maneuverable through the vasculature of the heart. See column 4, lines 46-49, column 7, lines 18-20, column 8, lines 33-36, column 10, lines 19-23, column 12, lines 22-25, column 13, lines 13-18, column 14, lines 14-18 and column 15, lines 1-3 (describing the insertion of the catheter through the vessels of the patient to reach endocardial tissue). As the Pomeranz catheter is necessarily bendable and maneuverable to navigate through the patient's vessels to reach endocardial tissue, it is not generally rigid, as recited in independent claims 1, 5, 17 and 22. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 5, 17 and 22, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-4, 6-16, 18-21 and 23-30, are allowable over Pomeranz.

Claims 1-30 remain pending in this application. In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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